the global level or both, cyclists and pedestrians, whose interests have been, sadly, neglected so far. I may also say, Sir, that we shall do everything possible. As for technology institutes and top urban studies institutes, we are in touch with them. We evolve our national urban transport policy in consultation with them. All the institutes that he has referred to here are in touch with us and we are in touch with them.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: This problem is very serious, particularly in cities like Mumbai. I would only like to know from the hon. Minister, whether the multi-storied parking for stopping the traffic jam is under consideration and whether such multi-storied parking facilities would be given free in order to encourage that sufficient parking space is created in the city. Part (b) of my question is, whether you are going to consider the stoppage of small cars in big cities because that would also increase traffic.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I agree with him that parking is a very urgent issue and important component. I do not have a say in the matter of planning of cities outside Delhi. In Delhi Master Plan, we tried to encourage multi-storied parking. As far as his radical suggestion, that the small cars must be stopped, is concerned, I do not think I can do that. Instead of stopping anything, we are trying to lay more emphasis on public transportation, as a part of which, we are encouraging the introduction of ultra-modern, low-floor buses. That is one way out. Whether the small cars should be stopped or not is something that I cannot address myself to, but I certainly would do my best, and the Government would do its best, to encourage public transportation and to encourage separate facilities for cyclists and pedestrians.

Schemes to promote sports

*85. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that most of the Panchayat areas in the country are lacking in sports infrastructure;

(b) if so, whether Government would consider some specific sports encouragement scheme at every panchayat level;

(c) whether Government would adopt any specific policy to promote sports at grass root level; and

(d) whether Government would consider to reserve at least 5 per cent employment for the sportspersons in Central and State Government and corporate sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government has taken a major initiative to promote rural sports by launching a national programme titled Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Ahiyan (PYKKA), which aims at providing basic sports infrastructure in villages and block panchayats of the country in a phased manner over a period of ten years and providing access to organized sports competitions at Block, District and State levels.

Under the Scheme, each Village Panchayat and each Block Panchayat would be given one time seed capital grant of Rs. 1.00 lakh and Rs.5.00 lakh, respectively. The State share in this will be 25% for normal States and 10% for special category States. In addition, while Village Panchayats would be given annual acquisition grant and annual operational grant at Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 12,000 per annum, respectively; Block Panchayats would be given Rs.20,000 and Rs.24,000, respectively. Each Block Panchayat would also be provided annual competition grant of Rs.50,000 for holding block level competitions and each district will be provided annual competition grant of Rs.3.00 lakh for holding district level competitions. Further, prize money would also be provided to the winners (first three positions) in block level and district level competitions.

An outlay of Rs. 1500 crore has been approved for the implementation of this scheme during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period.

(d) There is already a provision which allows for reservation for meritorious sportspersons upto 5% of direct recruit vacancies in Group 'C' and 'D' posts in the Central Government.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Sir, we have talent in sports and there is a need for regional approach for the budding talents. We cannot go in for all the events in every region, at a time. So, you must be selective. We must have SAI centres in every State. I have seen that necessity more in the North Eastern region; there are only two SAI centres. So, every State should have SAI centre and there should be coaching centres in every district with full funding and required infrastructure. I would like to know whether the Government would consider these aspects.

DR. M.S. GILL: Sir, the question really is about the new sports scheme for rural India, Yuva Kreeda Khel Abhiyan, which is what we have launched from March, 2008, because in 2005, four major schemes for sports infrastructure in India had been moved to the States; help to States had been somehow given up. Since the hon. Member is really asking me about the Sports Authority of India, I would try to answer him. As far as the North-East is concerned, a major centre of the Sports Authority of India is coming up in Shillong, and we will support to the maximum. We have gone into all this. Certainly, whatever we can expand to the Sports Authority of India, for the country as a whole, must be done. I will give you an example, Sir. There were 1800 coaches long-time back. By retirement and no recruitment, there are 1300 coaches. The games have increased, more games have been accepted, and we are trying very hard to expand the Sports Authority of India and I certainly have a direct interest in promoting all these in the North-East.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Sir, my second supplementary is, I would like to convince the hon. Minister that sports today should be made a compulsory subject in the school level. That must have been done. In group events, India should give importance to games like hockey, volleyball and football. Inter-school games and rural school competition should be made compulsory and the Central Government should give funds to organise those games with incentives to the talented sports persons. I would like to know whether the Government will take steps in this regard because we are now going for the Commonwealth Games, thereafter, I think, in 2020 we are bidding for Olympics also. We must have some approach. Will the Government consider the suggestions given by me and have an approach accordingly?

DR. M.S. GILL: Sir, this is again a wide-ranging question on sports attitude and policy. As far as we are concerned, we are very clear and many months ago, soon after I came into this Ministry, – all these games that he is mentioning, volleyball, hockey, football etc. – all of them have been moved to Category One. Surprisingly, even hockey used to be Category Two. My view is very simple, what are the games that India should push, I am a cricketer but cricket is an elitists' game, golf is an elitists' game. India needs games, which are inexpensive that everybody can afford them. ...*(Interruptions)*... Okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is entitled to his views. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. M.S. GILL: What are the games which India should have, what are the games to be promoted as a policy, they have to be inexpensive, which can be played with least cost, they have to be playable on any grounds - sandy, ideal turfs, Siachin, anywhere in the hills, they have to be playable in all seasons. Which are those games? Those games are: Football is No.1, No.2 is volleyball, No.3 is basketball, No.4 is athletics - you just have to run. So, we are doing all this, which you are asking, and we will certainly promote them to the best ...*(Interruptions)*... Kabbadi. ...*(Interruptions)*... He also talked about India's traditional games. Yes, I am totally in support of India's traditional games, Kabbadi, wrestling, kho-kho, malkham, all of them and more, because they are a part of Indian culture and civilisation. ...*(Interruptions)*... Archery is very much ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Thank you, Sir. Just concluded Beijing Olympic Games are very, very encouraging for the sports history of India. India has got not only Gold, Silver and Bronze medals, but Indian badminton players for the first time in the Olympic history moved up to Quarterfinal. Indian Archery player moved upto quarter final.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question please.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: It is very important, Sir. Indian badminton players have moved up to Quarterfinals. So, in the coming London Olympic Games, which are going to be held in 2010, India has a very bright opportunity to win medals in archery, boxing, shooting, and tennis. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what action is being taken by the Government of India for the forthcoming London Olympic Games.

DR. M.S. GILL: Sir, for the first time, the Government has sanctioned Rs.678 crores for the next three years, something less than 300 crores a year, for coaching alone in this country. It has never happened before. This money has been provided. All federations have already – I think the hon. Members might have read in the newspapers occasionally if they read the Sports Page, I am not sure–chosen their list of probables-20-30, coaches have been identified and coaching has started and will be pushed intensively. I do expect, for example, boxing, there is every reason to pick up two-three medals in London. That is my assessment and my judgement with some knowledge, wrestling, of course, archery and there are other games also. So, certainly, we will do this.

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Sir, first of all, I would to congratulate our hon. Minister for Sports. After his becoming Minister, something is coming from the sports side. He wants to encourage rural sports. But at the same time, sports are not in the scope of the Human Resource Development Ministry. There are so many schools, but there are no playgrounds. They are talking only about school education and nothing about sports. Now he is talking about the rural sports like

volleyball, kabbadi, etc. But there are no grounds. Where will the students come out and play, Sir? There should be some kind of understanding between the HRD Ministry and the Sports Ministry. A lot of fund should be provided for encouraging sports. They are recognising those schools, which have no grounds at all. They are having schools in rented buildings. Where are the grounds for children to play? ...*(Interruptions)*... To be frank, Sir, even playgrounds are not there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question?

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Sir, the Ministry of Human Resource Development and the Ministry of Sports can sit together and recognise colleges and schools where there is a ground of a minimum four acres or five acres. Only then they should be recognised.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then you will drastically reduce the number of schools in the country.

DR. M. S. GILL: I am grateful to my hon. friend. I used to sit next to him. That is why the praise that has brought me to the question of the day, which is the PYKKA scheme of promoting sports in rural India. It is a scheme for Rs. 1500 crores for the next five years sanctioned for the Eleventh Plan and for the next ten years it has to be about Rs. 5000 crores and the scheme is precisely this: We will assist a Panchayat, we will assist a block, we will assist the district and we will assist the State to have infrastructure in the village and in the Block, to hold tournaments and competition at our cost and all of this I have laid out in the answer and intend to push it and I am certainly very keen to push as hard as I can.

DR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, from a well informed and an experienced Minister, I am inclined to ask whether our sports ability and capacity is gifted or acquired or both. Where do we stand? I would like to know whether the sports ability or capacity is gifted or acquired or both. As far as India is concerned, are we gifted with or acquired with?

SHRI M. S. GILL: Sir, I don't think there is any doubt that Indians are gifted in all things. You have seen the rocket yesterday. It is not a millimetre out of direction. The Indians are gifted in sports. No wonder Dhyan Chand was thought to have magic, not to be a player but to have some of magic. The gift is there but in today's world which is frankly international sport is professional competition. Lots of training, lots of psychological coaches, running coaches, bowling coaches, batting coaches, all of that is there. Therefore, the money has to be spent, the dedication has to be there. The *tapasya* of the players also has to be there and if they do it we can win all the medals. China had the first medal in 1982. Now they have 50 gold medals. Well, let's see what we get in London.

*86. [The questioner (Shri Prakash Javadekar) was absent. For answer *vide* page 20 *infra*.]

Challenges of climate change

*87. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: ††
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Jesudasn Seelam